

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Butte Creek Implementations**

#### **Riparian Education and Geomorphology Analysis**

##### **Name of Applicant and Principal Investigators**

Research Foundation, California State University, Chico

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##### **Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives**

The Research Foundation of California State University, Chico (CSUC), and the Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy (BCWC) are engaged in a long-range watershed management planning effort (Butte Creek Watershed Project, BCWP) for Butte Creek in cooperation with landowners, water users, agricultural interests, conservation groups and state and federal agencies under the supervision of the Department of Geography and Planning at CSUC. Protection of critical habitat for the endangered spring run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout populations of Butte Creek is a high-priority for all the agencies working on anadromous fisheries.

The riparian corridor of the lower canyon is an area of great concern as it plays crucial roles as habitat for priority species, yet has been greatly influenced by human land use activities over the last 130+ years. Historic hydraulic mining, followed by dredging operations, and finally gravel and sand extraction have pushed the creek into a disequilibrium condition that is affecting primary habitat as well as current residential land uses.

##### **Justification for Project Funding by CALFED**

This project meet a number of CALFED objectives including protection of riparian corridors and development of riparian and floodplain management practices that protect, restore and enhance priority habitats for priority species, specifically shaded riverine and aquatic habitats for spring run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

##### **Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts**

	Total costs
Task 1	\$80,905
Task 2	\$35,704
Task 3	\$35,701

There will be very limited third party impacts from this project. The main concern would be the potential loss of local tax revenue by Butte County. This would amount to approximately \$4000 per year. Other effects that would need mitigation are the impacts of the recreational users. These concerns will be addressed and mitigated as part of the management plan for the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve and in the WMS development.

##### **Applicant Qualifications**

The protection and enhancement of local creeks and watersheds by local community groups is a high priority at California State University, Chico. Toward this end, faculty and resources, conservation groups, public agencies, and others as needed are utilized. As a part of its

community service mission, it is the policy of the CSUC Research Foundation to organize teams for special projects and to provide the kinds of services required for this project.

**Monitoring and Data Evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted by the BCWP staff, Butte Creek Education Project and the Recreation Department at CSUC. Development of the management plan, integration with education programs and initiation of restoration projects will be closely monitored to ensure timely completion of activities and maximum outreach to target audiences; ie., students and recreational users.

**Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives**  
NFWF, CDFG, USFWS the BCWC, recognizing the value and compatibility of this project with CALFED and other anadromous fish objectives have agreed to contribute and support the RPRP.